GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5808
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2001
COAL BED METHANE IN WEST BENGAL
SUNIL KHAN

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal bed methane (CH4) gas is available at Raniganj coal based area in West Bengal;

(b) if so, whether the exploration work has been undertaken with the help of UNDP and GEF (Global Environment Facility) by CIL and ONGC separately for experiment;

(c) if so, the reasons for not undertaking the job by the Union Government; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to supply coal bed methane gas to fertilizer units in the West Bengal?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) Preliminary studies and Research & Development (R&D) activities have indicated the presence of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) in Raniganj in West Bengal.

(b) & (c):- Ministry of Coal, jointly with United Nation Development Programme (UNDP)/ Global Environment Facility (GEF), has undertaken a CBM recovery and commercial utilization project for safer extraction of coal and also to demonstrate economic viability of harnessing CBM in India. This project is being executed by Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.(BCCL), a subsidiary company of Coal India Ltd. (CIL) which is a Public Sector Undertaking under Ministry of Coal. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has not undertaken any such project.

(d) Supply of CBM to any consumer including fertilizer units would depend upon techno economic feasibility.